

would frequently fly out of the trees uttering their peculiar twittering note, which when once heard is well remembered.

That has been my experience anyway. So it is an established fact that Junco roosts in the thick foliage of *Juniper virginica*, at least in Virginia. And how its western relatives spend their nights I regret exceedingly I can't *throw* my search light of experience, having never lit the candle upon them or in their neighborhood.

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## ANSERES WHICH VISIT THE OBERLIN WATER- WORKS RESERVOIR.

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Ever since the new reservoir, which contains about three acres of surface, has been finished, the writer has endeavored to keep a complete record of all ducks and geese which have ventured upon its waters. Reference has so often been made to this small sheet of water in previous numbers of the BULLETIN, that it may be well to call special attention to it now. The reader who is unfamiliar with the village of Oberlin will do well to examine the map of Oberlin opposite page 41 in BULLETIN No. 15. 29, near the lower left-hand corner of the map, indicates the position of the pumping station, but the spot intended to represent the reservoir is for the old reservoir. The new one lies south and west of the old one, occupying the bed of Plum Creek as represented on the map, the course of the creek having been thrown to the south. Immediately south and west of the new reservoir there is a small grove of large trees, bounded on the east by an osage orange hedge fence. The reservoir thus lies in a trough where the creek bed used to be, and cannot be seen from the higher land on each side. Allow me to say that the reservoir embankment is so high, and its bottom so built, that outside water cannot enter.

Morgan street is well built up with dwelling houses, and a dwelling house at the end of Kinsman street overlooks the reservoir. The region west and south of the reservoir is not built up, thus affording a means of approach from these directions. However, the village boasts of so many and such large shade and ornamental trees that the buildings are well hidden from any direction. To an observer on the highest building there are scarcely more evidences of a village than the steeples towering above the mass of foliage. But to the keen eyed flyers, suspicious of every least indication of human activities, the village is an object to be

avoided if possible. It is interesting to notice that a large proportion of the birds which find their way to the reservoir follow the course of the creek down or come across the fields from the south. Flocks which have passed high above the buildings returning from the north, pass completely over the reservoir, whirl about, circle a few times, approach the pond from the south-west, whirl around its margin once or twice, then plunge upon its surface with a great splatter and whistling of wings. Such species as come singly or in pairs or very small flocks usually steal in under cover of darkness, or fly low near the woods or hedge, attracting little attention. The passing of a train or the sudden appearance of a person above the embankment will usually startle the most courageous birds away. Many return almost at once and many remain even when the reservoir is nearly surrounded by people, provided no sudden demonstration is made. It often seems almost marvellous how reluctant the ducks are to leave this small sheet of water. Probably the reason may be found in the prohibition of shooting anywhere near the premises. It is certainly true that the numbers visiting the reservoir are constantly increasing. May this small place always be a secure haven of rest to the moving host.

Below is a list of the species recorded to date with some remarks upon their occurrence.

AMERICAN MERGANSER, *Merganser americanus*.—Twice recorded. April, 1896, May 4, 1898. It is one of the most timid species, appearing in the early morning and departing at the first signs of activity on the street.

MALLARD, *Anas boschas*.—March 26 and 28, 1898. A female which remained all day.

BALD-PATE, *Anas americana*.—A female seen on the water in the spring of 1896.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL, *Anas discors*.—There were several seen April 3, 1898.

PINTAIL, *Dafila acuta*.—Visits the place every spring, but is very shy, leaving early in the morning.

RED-HEAD, *Aythya americana*.—April, 1896, March 12, 1898. Another very shy bird.

CANVAS-BACK, *Aythya rullisneria*.—Recorded by Mr. L. M. McCormick for the old reservoir

AMERICAN SCAUP DUCK, *Aythya marila nearctica*.—March 24, 1898. One of the less timid ones; permitting a near approach.

LESSER SCAUP DUCK, *Aythya affinis*.—One of the commonest and boldest of the visitors; seen every year.

RUFFLE-HEAD, *Charitonetta albeola*.—Frequently associated with the preceding, and even bolder. Usually, as the last, in mixed flocks, the females outnumbering the males.

RUDDY DUCK, *Erismatura rubida*.—November 13, 1897. April 23, 1898. I found them much like the Grebes—diving when alarmed and loth to leave the water.

BLUE GOOSE, *Chen caerulescens*.—October 28th, 1896, two were captured. They were not at all timid, and permitted a near approach. A very rare occurrence for so large a bird and so small a body of water.

CANADA GOOSE, *Branta Canadensis*.—Single individuals soar about the reservoir nearly every spring. But one was ever known to light.

Thus 13 out of the 23 species which have been found in the county have visited this small and seemingly unfavorably situated body of water at one time or another.

To this list should be added the other "Water Birds," but they can perhaps better wait until another time.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

## "SOME REMARKS ON THE BIRDS OF CHESTER COUNTY, PENN."\*

Following the publication of the paper of which the above is the title, I received several communications calling my attention to facts of which I had previously been ignorant. In order that no one may be misled through my misunderstanding of the true state of affairs, I make the following statements:

1st. The responsibility of so many of the remarkable statements in the "list" referred to, should not rest wholly on the shoulders of the ostensible author, whose experience had been limited to two or three years of field work.

2nd. Our local ornithologists seem very loth to adopt the records given by my correspondent for the reason that memory is a very unsafe thing to depend upon especially when one has collected in many parts of the country. It is said that it is no uncommon thing for some men who have collected in various places and whose intentions may be perfectly honest, to get certain experiences mixed up in their memory and state with great certainty that a kind was killed at such a time and place, when the specimen they were thinking of was something quite different. Unfortunately my correspondent cannot refer to his cabinets of skins and

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